



## Press Release

**Press Release Announcement -- April 18, 2003 -- For Immediate Use**

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### Pennsylvania's Red Meat Production Up 10 Percent in March

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during March 2003 totaled 105.4 million pounds, up 10 percent from March 2002, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 112.0 million pounds live weight, was up 14 percent from March 2002. Total head slaughtered was 87,600, up 14 percent. Live weight averaged 1,278 pounds, unchanged from last year. Veal production was 5.7 million pounds live weight, up 19 percent from last year. Calf slaughter of 15,400 head was up 16 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 5 pounds to 369 pounds.

Pork production was 56.5 million pounds live weight, up 9 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 225,900, up 9 percent from March 2002. Average live weight is unchanged from last year.

Lamb and mutton production during March 2003 was 644,000 pounds live weight, down 4 percent. The number slaughtered was 5,900, down 11 percent. Average live weight increased 7 pounds to 109 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in March 2003 totaled 3.70 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the 3.68 billion pounds produced in March 2002. Compared with a year earlier beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.05 billion pounds, was down 1 percent. Veal production, at 16.5 million pounds, 10 percent above a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 18.2 million pounds, was down 18 percent from March 2002.

January-March red meat production was 11.27 billion pounds, virtually unchanged from 2002. Accumulated beef production was down 1 percent from last year, veal was up 8 percent, pork was up 2 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 15 percent.